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OF NEW YORK

1918

THE

# DEMILT DISPENSARY,

IN THE

CITY OF NEW YORK.

## FIRST ANNUAL REPORT,

&c.

NEW YORK:

WM. C. BRYANT & CO., PRINTERS, 18 NASSAU STREET.

1852.

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### NOTIČE.

That portion of the City of New York, to the destitute poor of which this Society undertakes to furnish medical and surgical attendance, and medicines gratuitously, is comprised between the centre of 4th Avenue and the East River, and between the centre of 14th Street and 40th Street. By-Laws, sec. 19.

The benefits of this charity are not extended to any who are able to supply themselves.

Until the Dispensary Building shall be completed, the sick poor residing within the above limits, on application to either of the Visiting Physicians, will be attended at their own residences, or prescribed for at the office of the physician, as the case may require, and medicine will be furnished gratuitously.

### DEMILT DISPENSARY,

INCORPORATED MARCH, 1851.

#### MANAGERS

President.

FREDERICK E. MATHER.

First Vice President.

JOHN CAMPBELL.

Second Vice President.
HENRY M. ALEXANDER.

Treasurer.

WILLIAM WALKER.

Secretary.

JESSE W. BENEDICT.

PETER COOPER,
WILLIAM F. MOTT, JE.,
OLIVER De F. GRANT,
SAMUEL L. MITCHILL,
JOHN J. WALKER,
HENRY A. HURLBUT,
NATHANIEL HAYDEN,
CHARLES TRACY,
ADAM W. SPIES,
FREDERICK S. WINSTON,

JOSEPH F. JOY,
GILES BABCOCK,
NATHANIEL R. LONG,
JOHN H. EARLE,
WILLIAM SMITH BROWN,
HENRY DAY,
HENRY COGGILL,
WALTER MEAD,
HENRY YOUNG,
GEORGE D. PHELPS.

#### STANDING COMMITTEES.

Committee on Finance.

HENRY A. HURLBUT,

HENRY COGGILL,

HENRY YOUNG

Committee on Conference.

JESSE W. BENEDICT,

WILLIAM F. MOTT, JR.,

HENRY DAY.

· Committee on Applications.

HENRY M. ALEXANDER,

SAMUEL L. MITCHILL,

WILLIAM SMITH BROWN.

Committee on Supplies.

ADAM W. SPIES,

GEORGE D. PHELPS,

CHARLES TRACY.

#### VISITING COMMITTEES.

For April, 1852.

PETER COOPER, GEORGE D. PHELPS, JOHN CAMPBELL, HENRY COGGILL

For May, 1852.

JOHN H. EARLE, WILLIAM F. MOTT, Jr., JOHN J. WALKER, WILLIAM SMITH BROWN.

For June, 1852.

SAMUEL L. MITCHILL, HENRY A. HURLBUT, OLIVER DE F. GRANT, GILES BABCOCK.

For July, 1852.

JESSE W. BENEDICT, WALTER MEAD, WILLIAM WALKER, HENRY M. ALEXANDER.

For August, 1852.

JOSEPH F. JOY,

HENRY DAY,

NATHANIEL HAYDEN.

FREDERICK S. WINSTON.

For September, 1852.

ADAM W. SPIES, HENRY YOUNG, CHARLES TRACY, NATHANIEL R. LONG.

For October, 1852.

PETER COOPER, GEORGE D. PHELPS, JOHN CAMPBELL, HENRY COGGILL.

For November, 1852.

JOHN H. EARLE, WILLIAM F. MOTT, JR., JOHN J. WALKER, WILLIAM SMITH BROWN.

For December, 1852.

SAMUEL L. MITCHILL, HENRY A. HURLBUT, OLIVER DE F. GRANT, GILES BABCOCK.

For January, 1853.

JESSE W. BENEDICT, WALTER MEAD,

WILLIAM WALKER, HENRY M. ALEXANDER.

For February, 1853.

JOSEPH F. JOY, NATHANIEL HAYDEN, HENRY DAY, FREDERICK S. WINSTON.

For March, 1853.

ADAM W. SPIES, HENRY YOUNG, CHARLES TRACY, NATHANIEL R. LONG

#### MEDICAL BOARD.

#### Consulting Surgeons.

Dr. GURDON BUCK, Dr. LEWIS A. SAYRE, Dr. WILLIAM H. VAN BUREN, Dr. THOMAS M. MARKOE.

#### Consulting Physicians.

Dr. GUNNING S. BEDFORD, Dr. JAMES S. COOPER, Dr. FRANCIS L. HARRIS, Dr. HENRY G. COX.

#### Visiting Physicians.

Dr. THOMAS F. ROCHESTER......No. 339 Fourth Avenue.

Dr. GEORGE L. HYSLOP.......No. 269 Third Avenue.

Dr. WILLIAM B. BIBBINS......No. 68 Lexington Avenue.

#### FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE MANAGERS OF THE DEMILT DISPENSARY.

The origin of the Demilt Dispensary is to be found in the Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor—itself one of the noblest and most disinterested charities of this or any other city.

This Association early in the year 1851 appointed a committee to inquire what measures, if any, should be adopted to supply the indigent sick in the northeastern part of the city with medicines and medical attendance.

On the 19th day of February of the same year, the committee met and informally discussed the subject, when it was resolved to call together gentlemen residing in the upper part of the city, who would be likely to favor the undertaking, at which meeting the whole matter should be laid before them and their co-operation invited.

On the 26th of the same month a number of gentlemen assembled at the call of the committee, and came to the unanimous decision that it was expedient to establish a medical dispensary for the benefit of the indigent sick in the northeastern part of the city. At this meeting it was announced that three gentlemen had volunteered to subscribe two hundred and fifty dollars each, to be expended in erecting a permanent edifice for the purpose of a dispensary.

Encouraged by this manifestation of interest, a third meeting was convened in the church at the corner of Fourth avenue and Twenty-second street. From the facts presented at this meeting it was evident that medical provision for the destitute sick had neither kept pace with other city charities, nor yet with the rapid growth and increasing wants of the inhabitants. It was stated, that in the year 1830, with a population of two hundred and ten thousand souls, there were three dispensaries in New York; that at this time with a population of upwards of five hundred and fifteen thousand the number of dispensaries has not increased, and that the northeastern part of the city above 14th street and east of the Fourth avenue, which as much needed such a provision as any other, was entirely unprovided for. It was

also shown from indisputable facts, that for several years preceding, the absence of proper medical arrangements had occasioned a vast amount of suffering among the indigent sick; that, although the association for improving the condition of the poor for a long time furnished temporary provision for the most abject and needy, yet the peculiar care and medication of the sick did not fall within the scope of its design, and that as it controlled no funds which could be legitimately applied to the object, this aid was necessarily discontinued; that as neither the Common Council nor the Alms House Department have in their official capacity power to establish public dispensaries, therefore that the duty of founding such institutions of necessity devolved upon the voluntary action of private individuals. with the truth of these statements, the meeting formally resolved that it was expedient to found such a dispensary, and that measures should be at once adopted to establish one. Gentlemen friendly to the object were requested to give their names to the secretary of the meeting, and a committee was appointed to carry out the object of the resolution.

On the 12th of March this committee determined that a Dispensary Association of twenty-five Managers should be incorporated under the general laws of the State. The necessary legal steps were completed on the 27th day of March, and on the 31st day of the same month the first meeting of the Board of Managers was held.

Measures were at once taken by the Managers to collect funds for the erection of a suitable Dispensary building. And here it is proper to state, that the sum of five thousand dollars was put at the disposal of the managers by a gentleman who positively forbids us to mention his name, but whose act of noble and disinterested charity will long be remembered by thousands of its recipients. As a slight evidence of the appreciation in which this act is held by the Managers, the name of a friend of the generous donor was given to the Dispensary, the gentleman himself declining, in the same delicate but positive manner, to have his own name brought before the public. The Managers also beg to refer to numerous other donations which do honor to the liberality of the donors.\*

A site for the Dispensary building has been purchased at the northwest corner of the Second avenue and Twenty-third street for the sum of \$6,000.

Contracts have been made and the ground broken for the erection of an edifice which will combine utility and beauty, and will be a credit to the city and State. The cost of the building, exclusive of the land, will be about \$24,000, making the whole cost somewhere near \$30,000.

<sup>\*</sup>The late President of the Board of Managers, has bequeathed to the Dispensary, the sum of \$5000, the bequest to take effect at a future time.

Of this sum about \$18,000 dollars have been already obtained, and it is of the last importance that the balance should be at once raised in order that the full objects of the Institution may be attained.

It must not be supposed that the managers have been inattentive to the immediate necessities of the sick while they have been engaged in urging forward their building. For several months past, three capable physicians have been employed to visit every sick person who might require their services in the district. Ample arrangements have also been made to furnish the best drugs to the patients gratuitously. The Managers take pleasure in saying that the physicians have fully performed their duty, although the burden has been very great. When the Dispensary building shall be completed, a great majority of the patients will apply there, and be prescribed for; whereas, at present, the patients, with very few exceptions, must, from the necessity of the case, be visited at their own home. For the particular details of this matter, reference may be had to the accompanying report of Visiting Physicians.

In conclusion, the Managers desire to urge upon the attention of residents in the upper part of the city a few considerations.

The importance and necessity of this branch of benevolent enterprize can scarcely be overrated, and is second to none in its results.

Its object is not merely to alleviate the miseries of poverty, but to carry help and comfort to sick, suffering, helpless poverty; to banish disease, and to guard the poor against the ravages of pestilence when the awfu scourge comes upon them.

But in doing this single work of mercy, it accomplishes a fourfold good. It secures the general health of the community, and in this way appeals to our interest as well as to our charity.

It secures to the poor his health, without which he cannot labor, and thus it fills the mouths of the hungry with bread.

Our physicians penetrate where the minister of no other charity finds his way, and he brings to light the moral wants, and the social and physical condition of a class which would otherwise never be reached.

His subjects are the thousands of the poor who principally congregate in the eastern part of our district. It embraces all the old and the young, the home born and the stranger, without respect to color, desert or religion.

The claims upon our aid are numerous and fast increasing.

We must not, and cannot leave the poor in the severity of winter, without labor, full often, without food, to die like the beasts which perish.

We cannot but earnestly commend this charity to the wealthy citizens of this city, and particularly of this district. The evil was so pressing, that without a building, and almost without funds, a beginning was made,

in the appointment of physicians. But we cannot proceed without a building for the various departments requisite for the purpose of a dispensary.

Yielding to the necessity of the case, and relying upon the co-operation of our fellow citizens, we have made our contracts before the subscription lists have been filled. A heavy debt on the Dispensary will cripple and ruin it. No Board of Managers can consent to remain responsible personally for a large debt, as they must be under the act of incorporation, when, by a little effort from without, the remaining sum of money required may be so easily raised.

In behalf of such an enterprise as this, which interests all, and whose benevolence is the binding and professed duty of every creed and every religion, and every true man, may we not feel that we do not appeal to our fellow citizens in vain—that to ask is but to receive, and to seek is to find.

Since writing the above report, we have been called upon to mourn the death of our respected and beloved President, Ephraim Holbrook, Esq. Mr. Holbrook was one of the founders of this Institution, and has ever given to it, of his time, his means, and regard. No one manager has done more in collecting money, or pressing forward the interests of the Dispensary than he. The anniversary of his election as our President, and the anniversary of his death will be the same, and will call up reflections both pleasing and sad as successive annual meetings come round.

#### ABSTRACT OF TREASURER'S REPORT.

Amount received; donations		_	-	<b>\$</b> J1,030	00		
Int. on loans	-	-	-	70	66	<b>\$11,100</b>	66
Amount expended:							
Purchase of site	-	-	-	6,000	00		
Expenses	-	-	-	277	39	6,277	39
Balance in Treasury	-	-	٠_			\$4,823	27
Subscriptions due and unpai	d	-	-			6,918	00
Amount which m	ay	be conside	red				
<b>a</b> vailable	-	- ·	-			<b>\$</b> 11,741	27
March 22, 1852.						_	
				Wm. Walker,			
				Treasurer.			

Subscriptions may be paid, and donations sent to William Walker, Esq., Treasurer, No. 63 Wall street, or to either of the managers.

#### PHYSICIANS' REPORT,

From January 1, 1852 to March 22, 1852.

DISTRICT PATIENTS:	k				
Males -	-	-	-	- 264	
Females	-	• •	-	- 337	
					601
VACCINATED:					
Males	-	-	-	- 69	
Females	-	-	-	- 86	
				_	155
	_				
Whole numb	er of	patients	-	-	756
Adults	-	-	-	- 368	
Children,	-	-	-	- 388	

<sup>\*</sup> It must be borne in mind that the Demilt Dispensary is without an edifice; and that the patients have been visited at their homes.



### Of the District Patients:

Discharged	-	-	486		
Transferred to Hospital	-	-	20		
Died	-	-	12		
Remaining under treatment	-	-	86		
•		-			
			604		
Whole number of visits made -			3,176		
		,			
_					

#### DISEASES OF THOSE WHO HAVE DIED:

Cirrhosis -	-	-	1
Cholera morbus		-	1
Consumption -	-	-	· 2
Dropsy of the brain	ı -	-	1
Inflammation of the	e lungs	-	1
Scalded -	-	-	1
Scarlet fever -		-	3
Small pox -	-	-	1
Typhus fever -	-	-	1
*			_
			12

THOMAS F. ROCHESTER, M. D. GEORGE L. HYSLOP, M. D. WILLIAM B. BIBBINS, M. D.

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